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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, OCT. 16, 1847.

CLINICAL LECTURE ON HOMŒOPATHY.—By DR. CURIE.

(Continued from Page 116.)

The following form of Chronic gastritis is more decided than the preceding, inasmuch as the patients feel a painful sensation in the region of the stomach, which is dissipated by the introduction of food, and which causes them to say that they require frequent eating. A throbbing is also frequently felt, which might lead to a belief in the existence of an aneurism in the ventral aorta. They moreover feel thirst, heat in the palms of the hands, sudden risings or flatuosities, lassitude in the limbs, slight pain in the head, and sometimes a tendency to sleep after eating; lastly, they are tormented by obstinate constipation. Every day, after every copious repast, this scene is renewed; appetite is scarcely ever felt, and stimulants afford only momentary relief. Almost all patients attacked

by this form of *chronic gastritis* are melancholy. (It is described by authors under the name of *dyspepsia*.)

Second Dyspepsian Phase.

1st. Painful sensation in the region of the stomach, dissipated by the introduction of food, which returns in one or two hours after eating in a more violent manner.

2nd. Swelling of the stomach.

3rd. Flutterings in the region of the stomach.

4th. Thirst.

5th. Heat in the palms of the hands.

6th. Sudden risings, flatulence.

7th. Lassitude in all the limbs.

8th. Pain in the head.

9th. Tendency to sleep after eating.

10th. Obstinate constipation.

11th. Scarcely any appetite.

12th. Melancholy.

Medicaments.

1st. Bryon., Coccus, Ign., Nux Vom., Puls.

2nd. Bryon., Cocc., Ign., Nux vom., Puls.

3rd. Cocc., Nux vom., Puls., Rhus., Tart emet.

4th. Bryon., Cocc., Ign., Nux vom., Puls., Rhus., Tart emet.

5th. Carbo veg., Cocc., Lyc., Nux., Staph.

6th. Bryon., Carbo veg., Nux., Puls., Sulph.

7th. Belladonna, Bryon., Nux., Puls., Sulph.

8th. Bryon., Carbo veg., Cocc., Ign., Lyc., Nux., Puls., Rhus., Sulph.

9th. China, Graphites, Nux vom., Rhus., Sulph.

10th. Bryon., Cocc., Graph., Ign., Nux., Puls., Sulph.

11th. Bryon., Cocc., Graph., Ign., Lyc., Nux., Puls., Staphysagria, Sulph., Tart emet.

12th. Bry., Ign., Nux., Puls., Sulph.

In a third form of *chronic gastritis*, the

pain and swelling of the epigastrium immediately follow the introduction of food.

If the phlegmasia occupies the splenic portion of the stomach, the muscle of the left side of the epigastric region contracts under the hand which presses it, whilst that of the opposite side remains immoveable; the same muscular contraction takes place on the right. And besides, when the inflammation is seated in the pyloric portion, the painful sensations increase two hours after eating, when the chymous paste passes into the duodenum. When the phlegmasia occupies the cardiac portion, the pain is generally felt at the moment when the alimentary ball reaches the stomach.

If we neglect these first symptoms of *gastritis*, and especially if we exasperate them by a stimulating regimen, more serious phenomena soon make their appearance. Vomittings become more frequent, the cheeks become red during digestion, the pulse accelerates, and the skin becomes dry and arid during the accomplishment of this act. Fits of a short, dry cough, not followed by expectoration, often provoking vomiting, declare themselves. (It is the gastric cough of authors.) In all the preceding degrees of *gastritis*, flesh may be preserved, and the epigastric region may not be tender to the touch, but in this last phase, loss of flesh and epigastric sensibility are almost constant. Nevertheless, there are some patients in whom nutrition is carried on effectually, notwithstanding the very advanced state of the disease.

Third Form of Chronic Gastritis.

1st. Pain and constant swelling of the epigastrium.

2nd. Frequent vomittings of bile and food.

3rd. Redness of the cheeks during digestion.

4th. Acceleration of the pulse.

5th. Skin dry and arid during digestion.

6th. Fits of a short dry cough, provoking vomittings.

7th. Wasting of flesh.

Medicaments.

1st. Arsenic, Carb. veg., Graph., Lyc., Natrum, Carb., Puls., Sulph., Nux vom.

2nd. Ars., Bryon., Silicea, Nux vom., Puls., Sulph.

3rd. Baryta, Lycopodium, Mang., Nux., Phosphorus.

4th. Ars., Bryon., Car. veg., Graph., Lyc., Natrum, Carb., Nux., Puls., Sulph.

5th. Ars., Belladonna, Calcarea, Graph., Lyc., Mang., Natrum, Sep., Sil.

6th. Ars., Graph., Lyc., Nux., Puls.

7th. Ars., Graph., Lyc., Nux., Puls., Sulph.

The disease continues to increase, and we soon see the following symptoms added to the preceding. Darting pains are felt under the xyphoid appendage, or in the right hypochondrium; in the first instance the epigastric region is resisting, and the anterior coat of the stomach is manifestly thickened; in the second instance, an oblong tumour, so much more easily defined in proportion as the wasting progresses, shows itself towards the pyloric region; almost all the food is rejected by vomiting some hours after it is taken, the pulse is continually accelerated, the skin burning, dry, and arid, and these two symptoms further augment after eating; the countenance presents an earthy (*livid*) aspect, or looks like yellow wax; lastly, the vomittings become continuous, and everything is rejected, even the lightest liquids, and in however small a quantity the patients may take them. Some persons, however, (and the instance is not rare) preserve the faculty of digesting food, even in the most advanced state of the disease; and even where a cancerous disorganization of the stomach exists, they only vomit a colourless liquid, and occasionally a part of that which they have drunk. When the *gastritis* lasts a certain time to this degree, the schirrous, or cancerous disorganization of the stomach no longer delays its operation, and later still, the matter vomited becomes blackish, and like coffee grounds, or melted suet; the cancerous disorganization is then complete.

1st. Darting pains in the xyphoid appendage, or in the right hypochondrium.

2nd. Oblong tumour towards the pyloric region.

3rd. Almost all the food rejected by vomiting, and almost as soon as taken, even to the smallest quantity of liquid.

4th. Pulse continually accelerated.

5th. Skin burning, dry, and arid, a symptom which further augments after repast.

6th. Visage earthy, or waxen yellow.

7th. Vomiting of a colourless liquid.

8th. Blackish vomittings, like coffee grounds or melted suet.

1st. Bryon., Calc., Cocc., Coffea, Con., Lyc., Natr. mur.

- 2nd. Ars., Calc., Graph., Lyc., Nux.
 3rd. Ars., Bryon., Lyc., Nux., Puls., Sil., Sulph.
 4th. Ars., Bryon., Calc., Graph., Lyc., Natr., Nux., Puls.
 5th. Ars., Graph., Lyc., Nux., Sil., Sulphur.
 6th. Ars., Cocc., Graph., Lyc., Nux., Puls., Sulph.
 7th. Ars., Calc., Puls., Lyc., Nux., Sil., Sulph.
 8th. Ars., Plumbum, Veratrum.

In very nervous, irritable individuals, accustomed to study their sensations, whose sympathies between the stomach and the brain are easily awakened by the slightest impressions, Chronic gastritis, besides the symptoms above described, is often accompanied also by headaches, ringing in the ears, giddiness, vertigos, melancholy, panic, want of sleep, and inclination to suicide. The patients are, moreover, in continual uneasiness concerning their sufferings, so that they are almost absolutely incapable of occupying themselves about anything but their health. They believe themselves to be afflicted with all the ailments which are mentioned before them, or of which they read a description. They constantly change their physician and their remedy; a feeling of enlargement and pain in the hypochondria accompanies all their digestions, a great quantity of inodorous gases escapes from the mouth: and, lastly, they are tormented by an obstinate constipation.

- 1st. Headaches.
 2nd. Ringing in the ears.
 3rd. Giddiness, vertigo.
 4th. Melancholy.
 5th. Panic.
 6th. Want of sleep.
 7th. Inclination to suicide.
 8th. Thoughts fixed upon their disease, uneasiness.
 9th. Inodorous gases escaping by the mouth, with noise.
 10th. Obstinate constipation.

- 1st. Bry., Nux., Puls., Sepia, Sulph., Ver.
 2nd. Ars., Bry., Calc., Conium, Graph., Lyc., Nux., Puls., Sepia, Sulph.
 3rd. All the above.
 4th. Ditto.

- 5th. Calc., Cocc., Graph., Ign., Nux., Sep., Sulph.
 6th. All the above.
 7th. Aurum, Natrum, Nux., Puls.
 8th. Calc., Nux., Puls.
 9th. All.
 10th. Bry., Cocc., Graph., Lyc., Nux., Opium, Plumb., Sulph.

A fedness, or brown, or slaty gray colour, and a thickening of the mucous gastric membrane, are the alterations most frequently to be met with in the dead body after chronic gastritis; sometimes this membrane is found to be more or less destroyed, or rather converted into a gelatinous mass. It is often thickened and converted into a fatty substance, everywhere homogenous; this disposition is especially observed at the pylorus, which more often, as well as other parts of the organ, presents encephaloid matter, melanosis, cartilaginous, and bony transformations; but these alterations are no longer the signs of chronic gastritis, they are the commencement of the schirrous state. Sometimes, the thickening of the walls of the stomach is almost entirely formed by the muscular tunic, which is hypertrophied. Ulcerations are rare, but, nevertheless, more frequent, as I have already said, than after acute gastritis. They usually occupy the thickened and degenerated portions of the membrane; they are sometimes found cicatrized. Perforations are more frequent in chronic gastritis than in the acute form of that disease.

[To be Continued.]

REFORM IN MEDICINE.

(Continued from p. 95)

From what has been quoted, in a former article, from Dr. Forbes and his "extracts of correspondence," it will be seen, that the means proposed, by the "enlightened minds of the profession," for the reformation of practical medicine, are, essentially:

- 1st. To ascertain the natural history of disease.
 2d. To determine the positive agency of medicine in curing disease.
 3d. To elevate the mental and moral character of the members of the profession.
 4th. To enlighten the public mind upon the principles of medicine with a view to

reconciling them to the proposed change of treatment.

It has been observed that mortality from disease is less in countries which have fewest or no Physicians.

It is conceded as the result of 'careful observation,' 'candid comparison,' and 'long experience,' that most diseases get on better without medicine, and that "drugs prove rather mischievous than useful;" "that the cure is much oftener retarded by the medicines administered, than it would be safe to say in these times of advanced medical knowledge."

The success of the homœopathic practice in curing disease, has forced the admission that drugs are not necessary in the treatment of the sick, and inasmuch as it is assumed that the homœopathist gives no medicine, his success is attributed to the "restorative powers of the system."

"Every medical practitioner, who is a friend to truth, and who wishes that medicine should be based upon rational principles, will court for its practice the strictest investigation and scrutiny, and rejoice to see it cleared of every thing which is injurious or useless, that ignorance, prejudice or credulity have introduced into it."

Many, and, it would seem, insuperable difficulties to an attempt to gain a knowledge of the natural course and termination of disease, present themselves to the minds of allopathic writers. This is owing to their crude and false notions of disease, as well as to their ignorance of any fundamental, correct, and efficient principle of therapeutics. Regarding disease as something to be combatted, to be drained off, or expelled out of the system, they resort to the absurd and mischievous practice of bleeding, purging, counter-irritation, &c., and invariably inflict more real injury to the system than the accomplishment of any good.

And although from the influence of various causes—among which the progress and success of homœopathy is the more prominent—they seem to have acquired new light, and begin to regard nature herself as the master spirit in the cure of disease, and to have learnt to repose some confidence in her "restorative powers;" yet are they "cast upon a sea of doubt, without a sure beacon to steer their skiff by."

Hence they seem to be deeply impressed with the conviction, that more correct and

reliable knowledge of disease is wanting, as well as with the magnitude of the undertaking by which it is to be obtained, and also with the weighty responsibility involved in abandoning former opinions and practices, and commencing *de novo*. It is asked:

"Where is the simple love of truth to be found, which shall rightly discriminate between fact and fiction, between truth and error, between prejudice and observation? Find your man or men who shall be both capable and willing to undertake such an investigation, where so many and powerful temptations are against them. Then comes the almost more difficult question—where is to be the field of their observation? Private practice never could afford it; and where is the hospital which would be sufficient as the theatre of experiments, the utility and real benefit of which, to the patients themselves and to the public, would be too remote and uncertain to be appreciated by the latter, or allowed by the former. I despair entirely of any general plan of co-operation, where the laborers are so generally, almost universally unfitted for such a species of investigation. Those who can do much are fettered. Those who are willing for the race have no legs for it."

This knowledge if attained, could only serve the general purposes of diagnosis and prognosis, and would not be of any practical value in individual cases, (when the all absorbing question with the patient and his friends, if not with the physician, would be, *what shall be done?*) The communication of the fact that such a disease proves fatal only once in ten or fifty or a hundred cases, and that nature in this (a given case) is, *in all probability*, adequate to cure, would not at all satisfy the patient or the patients friends—but something must be done.

But the doctrine of the curative power of nature, so readily presumed and so boldly asserted when accounting for the 'astounding tables of cures' wrought by homœopathic practice, is at once modified or altogether abandoned, when the question becomes a practical one. Hence by contrasting the results of the unaided powers of nature and the effects of remedies—yet to be determined upon by experimenting—more mild, more simple, and more agreeable, to arrive at some uniform method of treatment, which, in short, amounts to a revival of the expectant and eclectic systems.

When it is considered that Hippocrates himself was the father of the expectant treatment, and that eclecticism has at various periods been in vogue by way of relief to the tedious and unsuccessful routine of bleeding, blistering, and purging, what has mankind to hope from a profession which proposes to go back to the infancy of the art and retrace its steps, and to re-enact an interminable series of experiments—"the work of the next and succeeding generations?"

"In this progress of medical science, which we thus confidently anticipate, some of its branches will take precedence of others. Diagnosis, for instance, will be in advance of therapeutics; and this for two reasons. In the first place, the elements of the former are fewer, and less complex in their relationships, than those of the latter; and in the second place diagnosis is an *essential pre-requisite* of therapeutics. These are amongst the reasons why improvements in the treatment of disease especially for the last twenty-five years, have not kept pace with the advances, which have been made in our knowledge of disease itself. After our knowledge of pathology, and our nosological diagnosis growing out of this, have reached their highest attainable point of accuracy and positiveness, there is still left an almost interminable field of investigation, in the study of the relationships between the morbid condition, thus ascertained, and the substances and agencies in nature, which can in any way affect or influence this condition. Let us look, for a single moment, at the extent and the complexity of these relationships. They are almost infinite. Look at any single disease, even of the simplest and best settled character; and let us suppose that all its elements, as far as this is possible, in the nature of things, have been accurately ascertained. Before our therapeutical knowledge of this disease can be said, in literal strictness, to be *complete*, we must know the effects and influences which *all the substances and agencies in nature are capable of producing upon it*; and we can know this only by direct observation of the effects themselves. We must know how it will be modified by each and all of the different vegetable productions of the earth; by each and all of the mineral substances, in their manifold forms of chemical combination; by changes of temperature, and other meteorological conditions; by light; by electricity; by food; by drink; by exercise; by the state of the mind, and so on. The doctrine, thus stated, sanctions the constant introduction and trial of new remedies; since until any given substance is tried we do not and cannot know what properties of a remedial nature it may be endowed with."

"Now, when it is remembered that these substances and agencies are, many of them, acting together,—that it is exceedingly difficult, in many cases, to separate the influence of one from that of another in our own en-

deavors to estimate the real agency of each; and, furthermore that the elements of the disease itself, so far at least as its therapeutical relationships are concerned, are more or less fluctuating and changeable,—it must at once be seen how true it is, as I have already said, that positive therapeutical knowledge is more difficult of attainment than any other in the entire circle of medical science."

From which it appears that the attempt to determine the positive curative powers of drugs by experimenting upon the sick, even in cases in which it shall have been discovered that nature is incompetent to effect a cure, or in those in which it is thought that she may "be aided," is a task of inconceivable magnitude and uncertainty, and none other than the results which a trial of 3000 years has already furnished, can be reasonably expected.

To be Continued.

(For the American Journal of Homœopathy.)

REVIEW OF A REVIEW OF HAHNE- MANN'S CHRONIC DISEASES.

By B. F. BOWERS, M. D., of NEW YORK.

The New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences. Edited by Charles A. Lee, M. D., Professor of General Pathology and Materia Medica in Geneva Medical College, &c. No. XXVI. for Sept. 1847. Art. XVII. The Chronic Diseases; their Specific Nature and Homœopathic Treatment. By Dr. Samuel Hahnemann. Translated and edited by C. S. Hempel, M. D.

There are many subjects claiming the attention of the medical inquirer upon which there is great room for difference of opinion. To the physician, who has a proper feeling of the responsibility of his situation and of his duties to the sick, it is often pleasant and profitable to examine the objections of those who are opposed to his own opinions and practice. An honest inquirer after truth, he has a respect and fraternal regard for every other honest inquirer, and if constrained to differ, he will differ amicably, courteously conceding to others the same right of private judgment which he claims for himself. Especially upon questions of high practical importance, which are constantly involving the welfare of his patients, will he desire carefully to examine all reasonable objections to his own course. In this article, the reviewer professes to give a critical analysis of the doctrines of homœo-

pathy. In taking up a journal which is under the control of a gentleman and scholar, as I have supposed Dr. Lee to be, it is reasonable to expect that controverted opinions will be fairly stated and honestly met; at least, that there will be no intentional misrepresentation and no personal abuse, no recourse to the vulgar expedient of making up for weak arguments by using hard words. Unfortunately, the homœopathist has occasion to know, that by allopathists, his sect is every where spoken against, assailed by misrepresentation and ridicule, and those who practise its precepts villified and belied. Whether this review is an honorable exception to the general rule in these cases, or whether it is entitled to the bad pre-eminence of being more "artful, disingenuous, and insincere" than its predecessors, may more fully appear on examination. It may be taken perhaps as a fair sample of the way in which homœopathy is opposed; as a specimen of the "conduct and writings" in opposition to homœopathy, which high minded, honorable members of a liberal profession would have us believe they can "reconcile with what are generally regarded by the world as candor and honesty." In order that the public may have the means of forming an opinion of the "candor and honesty" of the "conduct and writings" of this reviewer, and by him of the whole class whom he represents, it seems proper to analyse, a little, his analysis.

He has a short and easy method with homœopathy after this fashion. Hahnemann was a visionary, designing, dishonest man. Homœopathy, the system founded by Hahnemann, is false and absurd. All physicians who practise homœopathy are ignorant pretenders, or destitute of all practical tact. "Of all modes of treatment, it is well known that the homœopathic is the most unsatisfactory and unsuccessful." "Homœopathy has, at every stage of its progress, made war upon common sense, drawn largely upon human credulity, violated all the rules of philosophy, and has now settled down into that slough of contempt, from which its ablest advocates can never succeed in elevating it."

Having disposed of Hahnemann, homœopathy and the whole body of homœopathic physicians, in this very satisfactory manner, the reviewer piously chaunts the requiem, "Requiescat in pace!"

In order to do justice to the writer it will be

necessary to quote his statements, and see how he endeavors to sustain them. As the review occupies twelve pages, and is exceedingly rich, it may be impossible, within the limits of this notice, to glance at every thing which calls for animadversion.

He commences thus: "To arrive at a correct appreciation of homœopathy, we must study the character of its founder; for in his mind we find its true type. Hahnemann was not destitute of genius, but he was thoroughly imbued with transcendentalism. He was always devoted to theories and speculations, and had no regard whatever to experience or facts, except as they went to support hypothesis. Hence, he says, that the true physician will be cautious how he suffers himself to become attached to any particular remedies, *merely because he has often employed them with success*; and that he will in like manner, also, be cautious how he suffers himself to be prejudiced against remedies, for the opposite reason, that they sometimes fail to succeed (Organon, p. 271)."

This quotation from the Organon is given by the reviewer in evidence of the truth of the assertions which preceded it. Every unprejudiced mind can decide whether the proof thus adduced does in the least degree substantiate his charge against Hahnemann. But let us see what Hahnemann did say. The American edition of the Organon, the only one in common use here, contains only 212 pages; but at page 195 may be found the passage cited. It reads thus:

"§ 257. A true physician will beware of forming a predilection for any particular remedies which chance may sometimes have led him to administer with success. This preference might cause him to reject others which would be still more homœopathic, and consequently of greater efficacy.

"§ 258. He must, likewise, be careful not to entertain a prejudice against those remedies from which he may have experienced some check, because he had made a bad selection, and he should never lose sight of this great truth, that of all known remedies there is but one that merits a preference before all others, viz.—that whose symptoms bear the closest resemblance to the totality of those which characterize the malady. No petty feeling should have any influence in so serious a matter."

I doubt not that this judicious advice will commend itself to the mind of every intelli-

gent reader, and be taken as evidence of the practical good sense of the mind from which it emanated. It may be observed that the phrase "*merely because he has often employed them with success,*" italicised by the critic as the most important part of his quotation, is not contained in the original, but has been substituted for "*which chance may sometimes have led him to administer with success;*" showing that the writer has carelessly taken it at second hand, without knowing whether it is correct or not, or else has deliberately altered, in a material point, the passage which he pretends to quote, in either case proving that his facts are not to be relied upon.

In apparent contradiction to what he had just asserted, that Hahnemann was "always devoted to theories and speculations and had 'no regard whatever for experience or facts,'" &c., he says: "His early life was occasionally occupied in the study of chemistry and the natural sciences, and he seems to have concluded that we ought to expect the same uniform sequence of cause and effect, the same undeviating uniformity of phenomena in medicine, as in the other branches of physical science. We can readily understand how the mere chemist, who always sees the same actions resulting from bringing in contact certain substances, might at length be led to expect that the same uniform results ought to occur in medicine; and that, if they did not, then to conclude, that *that* was a science 'falsely so called.' He would be very likely to set to work to find out some universal law, like gravitation; some principle which might bind together all known facts, and serve as a basis on which to build a true system." It is not easy to understand how an individual can be too exclusively devoted to theories to the neglect of facts, and at the same time be too much devoted to facts and experience; and in seeking for a basis on which to build a true system, set to work to find out some universal law, like gravitation; some principle which might bind together all known facts. A principle which binds facts together would seem to be a fair induction from the facts. But our critic says, "Hahnemann constantly violated every rule of philosophical investigation. Instead of pursuing the mode of induction, as laid down by Bacon, he began by inventing the law '*similia similibus curantur,*' and then endeavored to find facts to support it. So wedded was he to his theory, that, if opposing facts

"were brought forward, his only reply would seem to have been, 'So much the worse for the facts.'" Not a particle of proof is given in support of these strange assertions, which are too absurd to require contradiction.

The reviewer himself says, in another place, "In 1790 Hahnemann claims to have discovered the *similia similibus* principle, while translating Collins' '*Materia Medica,*' by experimenting on himself with cinchona bark, which, he says, produced all the symptoms of intermittent fever."

The reviewer is very bold in making assertions and apparently reckless in citing passages to sustain them. Thus he says, "Hahnemann admits that the *homœopathic law* is not a general one, that it does not apply—3, to cases where offending matter exists in the stomach and intestinal canal, which are to be treated by *emetics and cathartics*; 4, to cases of habitual constipation, which often require *enemata*; 5, to chronic diseases," and quotes from the Organon, in proof, thus: "In urgent and dangerous cases, or in diseases which have just broken out in persons who were previously in health, such as asphyxia by lightning, suffocation, freezing, drowning, &c., it is proper, in the first instance at least, to re-animate the feeling and irritability by the aid of palliatives, such as slight electric shocks, injections of strong coffee, stimulating odors, warmth, &c." It will be perceived that the passage, as quoted by the reviewer, by no means sanctions his statement; for we find not a word about emetics and cathartics, constipation, nor habitual disease of any kind.

But here again the passage is misquoted so as to change the sense. Organon, p. 114, § 67, note, reads thus, "*It is merely in urgent and dangerous cases,*" &c. &c. "*that it is either admissible or proper,* in the first instance," &c., where the words in italics, omitted by the reviewer, essentially modify the meaning. Still farther to guard against misapprehension, Hahnemann adds: "And yet the new mongrel sect appeal to these remarks, though in vain, in order to find a pretext every where for such exceptions to the general rule, and very conveniently to introduce their allopathic palliatives, accompanied by other mischiefs of a like character, merely to spare themselves the trouble of searching for suitable homœopathic remedies for every case of disease." "So far from proving his law '*similia similibus,*' to be a universal fact,

"Hahnemann admits important exceptions; numerous enough to vitiate it as a general principle," says the critic, and strangely enough attempts to prove it by misquoting a passage where Hahnemann expressly denies it.

"We regard Hahnemann as a physician, in the same light that we do Swedenborg as a divine; both were inspired by a species of wild enthusiasm which enabled them to see things that never existed; and if they did not end their days in a mad house, it was not because their insanity was doubted, but rather because it was of an inoffensive character, rather calculated to amuse and excite curiosity, than to disturb the peace of the community."

But "the failings of Hahnemann as a medical philosopher," were by no means his worst failings. "There are grave charges against him as a man of high and honorable bearing, to which we should not here allude, did they not serve to throw light upon his career and his system, and the motives which may have influenced him in its promulgation."—"It is admitted that his quackish practices chiefly drove him from Germany, to take up his abode in Paris." So far from admitting this, it is denied that he was driven from Germany at all, or that he was guilty of any quackish practices, and the attempt to give the impression that Hahnemann was an advertising quack doctor only affords an example of the reviewer's "*candor and honesty*."

Again, "It has been proved by Professor Joerg, of Leipzig, that many of the quotations from old medical authors, made by Hahnemann, are false and fictitious." This is really a grave charge, and being proved by a professor, may seem difficult to get over. But as the evidence is not given, and we have nothing but the reviewer's assertion, I shall take the liberty to deny it, and call for proof. Because Hahnemann was a man of high and honorable bearing, he could not stoop to the meanness of making false and fictitious quotations, and I am glad to have the reviewer's opinion that such an act would throw suspicion upon the motives of the man who was guilty of it. It is a weak and wicked artifice of little minds. Especially when the opinions and conduct of the venerable dead are thus misrepresented for the purpose of destroying their good name, the crime is atrocious, and I would willingly see the reviewer scourge the man he knows to be guilty.

(To be Continued.)

THE DRUGGING SYSTEM.

It is gratifying to notice that some of the more popular Journals of the day are beginning to look into the evils of the drugging system, and are exposing them in a manner that cannot fail to secure the attention of the vast multitude, who are the victims of it.

The universal employment of drugs, by all classes of community, whether as the prescriptions of the doctors, the apothecaries, of quack advertisers, or of old women, and of ignorant and officious friends, is greatly to be deplored.

The extent to which the practice of swallowing these baneful poisons prevails, is hardly to be credited by those who have given the subject no attention, while the evils resulting from it are hardly to be estimated.

Drugs are not, it is true, so generally prescribed by the doctors as formerly; but in proportion as physicians have discovered the mischief resulting from their employment, and have abandoned their use, in that proportion has the manufacture and sale of all manner of poisonous and disgusting compounds increased. The people have been made to believe that drugs are useful, and failing to find relief from the prescriptions of regular physicians, or from being told by them that they were "better without medicine at all," they have resorted to the ten thousand and one quack nostrums which are filling the pockets of dishonest and heartless speculators upon the credulity and misfortunes of their fellow beings.

We hope to see the time when this business will be stopped, and when the people shall have come to understand that the whole system of drug-taking, is as useless as it is pernicious.

We think the public prints are not without blame in giving place to the advertisements of quack nostrums, as it is in this way that their general employment has been aided, and an evil, second to none in its consequences, present and remote, upon the public morals and the public health, has been propagated and established.

Some of these prints, very properly, exclude a certain class of advertisements; but, to be consistent, they should make a clean sweep of all lying puffs of secret nostrums and villainous compounds, especially of those in regard to which the editors themselves are satisfied that they are bad—injurious to

health, hazardous to life, and tending to enrich a mercenary class of individuals at the expense of both health and life.

We think it is time that the public were properly enlightened on this subject, and we hope to see the truth, in relation to it, fully promulgated in those Journals, whose influence on popular sentiment, for good or evil, is, in this country, unlimited, and which can scarcely fail to be aware, and to acknowledge, that a vast weight of responsibility in relation to this matter, is imposed upon them.

That crude drugs are rarely or never useful, but generally or always injurious, we have good reasons to believe. They are not adapted to restore harmony to the deranged vital forces in disease, while they are capable of greatly augmenting such derangement when it exists, and of producing it when it does not exist.

Most derangements of the vital power, or diseased actions, are produced by neglect, or abuse of the laws of health, improper diet, over exertion, mental excitement, &c., and in a great majority of cases, nature is competent, under favorable physiological conditions, to restore harmony to the disturbed functions, and to establish health. Medicine should never be employed in a manner to superinduce its own specific effects, and thus obstruct the mode nature adopts to restore the system to its normal condition. And, unless it can be administered upon a principle known to be in harmony with nature, and in a manner to co-operate with her own processes of cure, it were better never employed.

That it is not so administered in this old fashioned and abominable drugging system, we have abundant testimony of writers of established authority in medicine to show. The opinions of eminent physicians, in all parts of the world, on the uncertain and injurious effects of drugs, as ordinarily prescribed in disease, have been already frequently given in our Journal, and we will now add what should more frequently meet the public eye.

Says Magendie : "I hesitate not to declare, no matter how sorely I shall wound our vanity, that so gross is our ignorance of the physiological disorders called diseases, that it would perhaps be better to do nothing and resign the complaint we are called upon to treat to the resources of nature, than to act, as we frequently do, without knowing the why and the wherefore of our conduct, and at the ob-

vious risk of hastening the end of the patient."

Says the celebrated French physician Bichat, of the vagueness and uncertainty of the medical science—"An incoherent assemblage of incoherent opinions, it is, perhaps, of all the physiological sciences, that which best shows the caprice of the human mind. What do I say? *It is not a science for a methodical mind.* It is a shapeless assemblage of inaccurate ideas; of observations often puerile; of *deceptive remedies*; and of formulæ as fantastically conceived as they are tediously arranged.

"To what errors have not mankind been led in the employment and denomination of medicines! They created *deobstruents*, when the *theory of obstruction* was in fashion; and incisives when that of *thickening of the humors* prevailed. When it was necessary to blunt *acid particles*, they created *inviscants* *incrassants*, &c. Those who saw in diseases only a *relaxation or tension of the fibres*, as they called it, employed *astringents* and *relaxants*. Refrigerants and heating remedies were brought into use by those who had a special regard, in disease, to an excess or deficiencies of caloric. The same identical remedies have been employed under different names, according to the manner in which they were supposed to act, *deobstruent* in one case, *relaxant* in another, *refrigerant* in another; *the same medicine has been employed in all these opposite views!*"

We have the assertion of Dr. Good, that "The science of medicine is a barbarous jargon, and the effects of our medicine on the human system, are, in the highest degree, uncertain, except, indeed, that they have already destroyed more lives than war, pestilence, and famine combined."

It is, undoubtedly, something more than "a probability admitting of debate, that, of the countless swarms of Gohsts that have passed 'the melancholy flood' medicine has introduced to the 'grim ferryman,' (multitudes of) those whom kind nature would have held back;" and which, being true, is "one of the mournfullest truths in the universe."

[For the American Journal of Homœopathy.]

HOMŒOPATHY IN WESTERN NEW-YORK.

Messrs. Editors:—

I find, in the last number of your Journal, an article on "Homœopathy in Rhode Island,"

in which the writer states that the "New doctrine has modified the practice of the Old School very much in that vicinity." Now this is true, not only of his "vicinity," but of every place where the two systems have met upon the same field; and that, too, in many instances, where the Homœopathist has been only a layman, without comparatively any of the advantages of a medical education.

The rapid progress Homœopathy has made in all civilized countries, together with the powerful influence it has obtained in the better classes of society, has indeed rendered Allopathy a new creature. From the sanguinary conqueror we beheld it, but a quarter of a century since, it has become a suppliant at the feet of the public; confessing and renouncing its errors, in order, if possible, to retain for a brief period, its fitful existence, under the assumed colors of its successful rival.

The "twistings and turnings" of its practitioners to keep in confidence with their employers are often amusing if not ridiculous. At one time representing Homœopathy as a do-nothing system; at another, avowing that its followers use only the most powerful and dangerous poisons; that while one person is not likely to be benefitted at all, another is in great danger of being killed by our remedies; and again, frequently intimating their near approach to it, by treating diseases with very small quantities of medicine; thereby acknowledging, indirectly, at least, that the new school, notwithstanding their slanders and ridicule, is fast gaining the ascendancy.

The latter method is, no doubt, resorted to in numerous instances, with a view to prepare the way for a conversion, when it may hereafter become necessary to secure their "daily bread."

To give you some idea of the prospects of the ordinary system of medicine in Western New-York, I will simply state that, when I adopted Homœopathy in the Spring of 1843, I was the sixth physician of that school west of Auburn. We now number about sixty, most of whom are converts from the Allopathic ranks; and, among them, I am not aware of any one who has been a year upon his location that is not doing a large and better business than any of his competitors, though oppressed by every imaginable falsehood and misrepresentation.

I think I am safe in saying, there has never been a time, in this section of the State, when

the community has been so generally interested on this subject as at present; or when there were so many evidences presented of an almost entire loss of confidence in the ordinary method of treating diseases. Instances are innumerable of families that have hitherto stood out prominently and decidedly against us, who, within the last few months, have been constrained to acknowledge the efficacy of the "small doses," and now rank among the strongest supporters of the cause.

One of the most striking evidences of the superiority of Homœopathy over every other system in relieving the "ills that flesh is heir to," and that it is, therefore, fast superceding, is the fact that much the largest proportion of the converts to it, is found among the best educated and most intelligent classes, and consequently the very persons, of all others, least likely to be deceived, or, to borrow the refined expression of our opponents, "humbugged."

As the fruits of this philanthropic revolution, (for it can be considered in no other light) we find not only Allopathic physicians, but *Allopathic Professors*, who, but a short time since, were boasting loudly of their bold practice and large doses, saying, *they do not bleed; they do not give Calomel; they do not blister; they do not give much medicine; and they have learned that small doses and mild remedies cure diseases much more effectually than large and powerful ones.* Wonderful discovery! A mighty stretch of human intellect! but a little too late for their benefit.

The time has now arrived when systems must be scanned down by their proper limits, even though they are apparently sustained by the accumulated lumber of thirty centuries. Old as well as new ones must undergo a thorough review and correction; must be carefully analyzed in the crucible of public opinion before they can be considered as having arrived at perfection, and be generally approved and adopted.

Homœopathists cannot, however, nor do not claim that all the improvements have been made in their system that can be; but are always ready to admit that the art is yet in its infancy; that we know nothing comparatively of the power of attenuated medicines upon the animal economy; though being in its infancy it is duly requisite that its followers supply the proper nutriment, in order that it attain rapidly the vigorous and healthy manhood. But when we reflect upon what

has already been done in this respect, the favorable impression its practical results have produced upon the public mind, its acknowledged influence upon all other systems of medicine, in reducing to a very great extent the quantity of drugs administered to the sick, and the consequent saving of health and life; we find the greatest encouragement to make every laudable effort for its advancement, and what no impartial observer can doubt its final triumph.

M. M. MATTHEWS, M.D.

Rochester, N.-Y., Oct., 1847.

(For the American Journal of Homœopathy.)

The following article, headed "*Warning*," has been going the rounds of the public papers for the last month or two, and as the "scene of action" therein described is in your neighborhood, I take the liberty to offer the article for publication, together with a few remarks upon it:

"*A Warning*.—A Coroner's inquest was held in Stockport, Columbia county, (N. Y.) on the 18th of July, on the body of Martin Van Sickler, who came to his death under the following circumstances: He called on Dr. John H. Philip, a homœopathic physician, for some pills for a pain in the side, &c. Dr. Philip gave him two vials of pills with written directions to take one three times a day, and if it produced any burning pain, then to take but half a one at a time.

His illness was feigned, and he was told by Schermerhorn, an allopathic doctor, with whom he had an understanding, that he might take the whole of the pills without experiencing the slightest discomfort. Accordingly Van Sickler took the pills, and soon after died.

Dr. Philip, the homœopathic physician, was called to go and see Van Sickler, before he died, and by Dr. Schermerhorn, too; but he replied that it was of no use for him to do so, as, if Van S. had taken all the pills, he must assuredly die.

According to the testimony of Dr. Whitbeck, of Hudson, the deceased came to his death by taking an over-dose of strichnine and arsenic pills. Accordingly the jury found that he so came to his death by taking the medicine contrary to the direction of Dr. Philip."

Who is Dr. John H. Philip, "the homœopathic physician," whose pills killed Dr. Van Sickler? Does Dr. Philip call himself a homœopathic physician, and give pills, as medicines of that school, which would require to be divided in case of their operating too powerfully? There is some mystery about this

case. The case either never occurred, or there must be a gross imposition upon the part of the *doctor* who prescribed the pills, as homœopaths do not give medicines which can kill, even if they do not cure. I do not know that it is any disadvantage to homœopathy that the idea would prevail that the medicines would poison, and produce death; for there are many persons who cannot understand how a medicine can *cure* which could not *kill*, under certain circumstances, and who would have more confidence in it as medicine, if it had such power. I very much fear, however, that there are individuals, calling themselves *doctors*, who are pretending to be homœopathic physicians, and are thus imposing upon the communities where they reside, who have no real knowledge of homœopathy, and very little knowledge of any thing else. Such is the gullibility of the people, that they frequently prefer itinerants, who assume the title of doctor, to those whom they *know* to be physicians from long association. The city of Baltimore has been the transient location of many of this class of pretenders; and at this time we are favored with some five or six, who are wearing the professional cloak, and swelling under the title of doctor, and who generally give the impression that they are the only *real* homœopaths. When they fail, as they very often do, for the want of that knowledge which would enable them to tell one disease from another, their want of success is attributed to a want of efficiency on the part of the system of medicine, not to ignorance in themselves. Poor Van Sickler! his experiment has cost his life, while he was the dupe of the folly of Dr. Schermerhorn, and the victim of the imposture of Dr. Philip. What a pity it was that he did not prevail upon Dr. Schermerhorn to try the experiment upon himself first. I shall entertain the hope that our American Institute will adopt some measures by which the public can be protected from such impositions. The cause of Science as well as of Humanity demands it.

Very respectfully,

F. R. McMANUS, M. D.

Baltimore, Oct. 9th, 1847.

JAHN'S NEW MANUAL.

No. 4 of Vol. II. has been issued from the press. No 5 will be out in a few days. Published by Radde, 322 Broadway.

The homœopathic practice is rapidly advancing throughout the country. Despite the opposition from open enemies; the summary manner in which it is so frequently sought to be disposed of by allopathic reviewers; the affected contempt of allopathic practitioners; and the injuries inflicted by those who, from whatever motives, attempt to practise it with the crude doses of the old school, the evidences of its advancement in the confidence of the people are too palpable to be denied. We are often applied to, from various and distant parts of the country, to "send us a competent homœopathic physician," and in no instance has the practice failed of success where it has been introduced. We repeat, that "its progress cannot be stayed by such means." The profession must be able, after candid scientific investigations of its claims, to prove that it is "founded on absurd theories," and not on stubborn facts.

Subscribers in Philadelphia can pay their subscriptions to C. L. Rademacher, 39 North Fourth-st.

SMITH'S HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipzig Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homœopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

CLEVELAND HOMŒOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homœopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines; Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homœopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipzig. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Hering's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow, New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipzig for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipzig Central Homœopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homœopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels Homœopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.